the reservation office in Delhi area to detect and apprehend touts. During the period 1-11-1986 to 16-4-1987, 91 touts were apprehended and prosecuted. Checks are also conducted in running trains and persons found travelling on transfered tickets are penalised as per law to act as a deterrent against purchase of tickets from unauthorised sources. Besides, strict watch is maintained over railway staff and those found indulging in malpractices are punished suitably.

Rail passes to freedom fighters

1143. SHRI CITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for issuing free railway passes to the freedom fighters

(b) whether it is a fact that freedom fighters who are recognised and received their pension from respective State Governments are not entitled for free railway passes; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Freedom Fighters who are receiving pension under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme from Central Government are being issued First Class Complimentary Card Passes in favour of self and one companion valid for a period of one year from the date of issue.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The present scheme, decided in consultation with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, does not cover the freedom fighters receiving pension from the State Governments.

Conversion of Miraj-Latur Rail Line into Broad Gauge

1144. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the survey undertaken by Railways to convert the Narrow Gauge Miraj-Latur railway line in Maharashtra into Broad-Gauge has been completed and the work on the conversion of the line has already started;

(b) if so, what is the amount spent on this work so far, and when it is likely to be completed;

(c) whether any survey was also done to connect Latur with Latur Board; and

(d) if so, when this work is likely to commence, and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Survey was completed in 1975. Conversion work has not been approved.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This work has not been approved.

Conversion of Manmad-Mudkhed railline into Broad-Gauge

1145. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to convert Metre Gauge railway line into Broad Gauge between Manmad-Mudkhed section of Marathwada (Maharashtra) region;

(b) what is the amount spent on this work so far;

(c) what is the progress of the work to date;

(d) what is the Budgetary allocation for this work during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(e) when the work is likely to be completed?